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Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Arising out of the answer to clause (c) of the question, may I know whether the report has been placed on the table of the House and, if not, why ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" They have not been placed yet on the table. Such of the recommendations as are accepted or rejected and the orders will be placed before the House."

Anti-drink propaganda by the Public Health officers.

*1190 Q —Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether, in view of the statement of the Excise Commissioner in the Excise Administration Report for 1927–28 that officers of the Public Health department will preach the evils of *excessive* drinking, the Government have issued orders directing them to preach against all drinking ;

(b) if so, the date on which such order was issued and the terms of the order ; and

(c) if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government think that the hon. Member is referring to the statement of the Excise Commissioner about the order issued on 11th May 1927 to officers of the Health Department about the evils of drink. The Government are considering about further instructions to be issued.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know if this is the order now in force in the department, that the officers of the Public Health Department will preach the evils of excessive drink ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" That was the order passed on 11th May 1927. A change of order is now under consideration, as I have already said."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know if that is the order now in force ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The answer says that a change of order is under consideration."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know, Sir, whether, apart from that fresh order, this order of 11th May 1927 is in force ? It might have been repealed or modified ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" That order has not been repealed or modified by a subsequent order."

Mr. S Satyamurti :—" May I know, in view of the policy of my hon. Friend, the Minister, that Government intend carrying on propaganda *inter alia* with the help of the officers of the department against drink whether the Government propose to issue instructions asking these health officers to point out the evils of drinking whether moderate or excessive, and if so, when they propose to issue such orders ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" It has been under the consideration of Government for the last four months."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know when approximately the Government propose to issue orders ? "

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The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not later than two months."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether Government believe some drinking is good to the body, but not excessive drinking ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know what the hon. Member exactly means. Personally, I do not believe any drinking is good for the health."

Mr P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Does Government at least think that some drinking is at least necessary for the human body ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Government does not think it is necessary, but the people who drink think it necessary."

Work done by Plague Inspectors in the Presidency.

* 1191 Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Plague Inspectors in this Presidency and the districts where they are employed ;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of them have put in a total temporary service of from 20 to 25 years and that their appointments are being sanctioned only for six months at a time, April and October every year ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in several Plague Inspectors' ranges there has been no plague or there has not been any severe attack of plague and that such attacks were confined to one or two months in each year during the past five years 1922–23 to 1926–27 ; and

(d) whether the Government will give a statement of attacks and deaths from plague in each Plague Inspector's range for the past five years 1922–23 to 1926–27 ?

A.—(a) Twenty-six, in the districts of Bellary, Coimbatore, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, Malabar, the Nilgiris and Salem.

(b) As far as information is available, five persons have put in 20 or more years of service. The answer to the latter part of the question is yes.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) The information is not available.

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know whether there is any reason why the salary of the Plague Inspectors are sanctioned only for six months ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because Government think that their services throughout the year are not necessary."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know why at least five people are kept on for the last twenty years ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because that is not a permanent staff of the Government and they consider that plague will disappear from the province in course of time."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know whether these five people who have been serving Government for the last twenty years, are entitled to pension for their long service ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" That requires examination, and so I want notice."